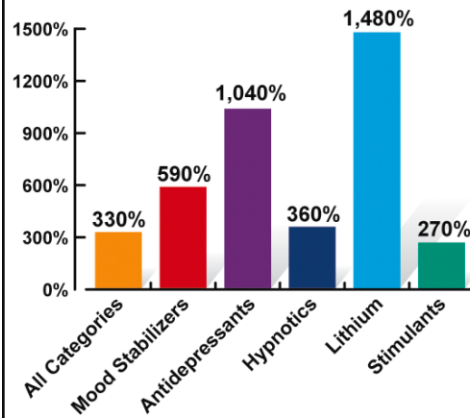


Managed Kids



A 10-year study of psychotropic medication use among youths analyzed Medicaid data from a midwestern and a mid-Atlantic state, and prescription dispensing records from a health maintenance organization. Results of the analysis nearly 900,000 youths age 20 and younger, revealed staggering increases in medication use, leading the authors to conclude: "Youth psychotropic treatment utilization during the 1990s nearly reached adult utilization rates."

** Graph data based on Medicaid outpatient prescription claims and enrollment records from the mid-Atlantic state.*

If we extrapolate these figures nationally and assume consistency over time, an estimated 20 percent of American youths will be on psychotropic medications by 2006.

SOURCE: Zito JM, Safer DJ, dosRies S, et al. Psychotropic practice patterns for youth: a 10-year perspective. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 2003;157, pp17-25.